

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2010  
MEADOW CROFT, SAYVILLE, NY**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Miles Borden          | Trustee, Town of Smithtown    |
| Gil Cardillo          | Chairman, Town of Riverhead   |
| Ray Corwin            | Member at Large               |
| Gregory Dawson        | Vice Chairman, Town of Islip  |
| Amy Engel             | Member of the Board           |
| Scott Hilary          | Trustee, Town of Southold     |
| Dawn Hopkins          | Trustee, Town of Brookhaven   |
| Bill Shilling         | Member of the Board           |
| Richard F. White, Jr. | Trustee, Town of East Hampton |

**ABSENT**

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Alexander McKay | Trustee, Town of Huntington |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| John W. Pavacic | Commissioner                            |
| Tracey Bellone  | Deputy Commissioner                     |
| Jim Barr        | Superintendent                          |
| Nick Gibbons    | Principal Environmental Analyst         |
| Tom Malanga     | Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator |
| Richard Martin  | Director of Historic Services           |
| Ann Rothenberg  | Assistant to the Commissioner           |
| Tony Trotta     | Superintendent                          |
| Barbara Weiss   | Senior Accounting Clerk                 |

**GUESTS**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Jim Connel       | Bayport Heritage Association, Vice President         |
| Lauretta Fischer | Principal Environmental Analyst, Planning Department |
| Jill Hansen      | Bayport Heritage Association, President              |
| William Hansen   | Bayport Heritage Association, Trustee                |
| Tom Young        | County Attorney's Office                             |

Chairman Cardillo called the meeting to order.

**OVERVIEW OF THE MEADOW CROFT ESTATE**

Richard Martin welcomed everyone to the Meadow Croft Estate. He reported that all of our historic houses that are open to the public are a result of a partnership we have with local historical societies and community groups. These groups give the tours and do much of the work to maintain the house. He introduced Jill Hansen, President of Bayport Heritage Association. Ms. Hansen introduced Jim Connel and Bill Hansen (also with Bayport Heritage). Ms. Hansen reported that the Bayport Heritage Association was formed in 1983 and is dedicated to the preservation of the history of Bayport. The group has a contract with the County and has been active in the restoration and maintenance of Meadow Croft, former home of John Ellis Roosevelt. Meadow Croft is open to the public from the first Sunday in June to the last Sunday in October with tours at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

There was one member of the public present; he did not wish to speak.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**A motion to accept the minutes was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Corwin. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.**

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Pavacic reported on the following:

### Storm Damage

The storm this past weekend caused significant damage, not only on our beaches, but also within our interior parks. At least 250 trees were downed with roughly 50 of those being spread among our golf courses. This is a rough estimate and we expect that number will grow.

We experienced additional erosion at Smith Point and Meschutt. Meschutt took a major hit. The deck is in peril and there is no beach at high tide. We are getting fill there today, but it will need substantially more sand at some point in the future. There was additional erosion at Smith Point. At high tide there is virtually no beach. We are working with the Department of Public Works to develop a major re-nourishment project. That re-nourishment project will not happen until the fall. Because the park is in Fire Island National Seashore, we are subject to National Park Service Rules and Regulations. They have indicated for a major project such as this we will probably be required to do an Environmental Impact Statement.

### Coindre Hall Boat House

The bids came back a few days ago. DWP will be reviewing those bids over the next couple of weeks. It looks like we will commence construction with a selected contractor by early summer.

### Suffolk County Environmental Center at the Scully Estate

We will be getting the Certificate of Occupancy shortly. The electrical underwriters were obtained. The same is true for Van Bourgondien. They have already received their C.O. and electrical underwriters.

### Blydenburgh Mill

A contractor was selected a number of weeks ago. The contract is almost finalized and they should be able to commence construction.

### Long Island Maritime Museum

We are in the process of commencing negotiations for the next agreement. Their agreement with the County runs out the end of this year. We are looking at a 10 year agreement with two 5 year options.

### Earth Day

Reminder: Earth Day is April 24<sup>th</sup> at Indian Island County Park.

### Amsterdam Beach

We recently had a meeting with State Parks and the Town of East Hampton. Trustee White also participated in this meeting. This is a jointly acquired parcel of property across from Theodore Roosevelt County Park. We are looking to move ahead with a plan to develop a trail system at this site.

### Prescribed Fires

Last year we executed an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to have them work with us doing prescribed fires. Unfortunately, the Nature Conservancy had to lay off a number of personnel, including their Prescribed Fire Manager for Long Island. Also, the State and National Organization has decided a prescribed fire is no longer going to be one of their main objectives. We are exploring potential alternatives and have talked with The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Environmental Conservation about the potential of helping us to bring prescribed fires back to some of our sites.

### San Souci Preserve

Our staff did a terrific job establishing a trailhead and parking area. Signage will be going up soon.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Cardillo reported on the following:

Thanked Vice Chairman Dawson for handling the February Trustees meeting.

Thank you to Mike LaBarbara at Indian Island for a great park clean-up this winter after the storms.

Chairman Cardillo asked if there were any plans to unsunset the fee increase. Commissioner Pavacic responded there are no plans to unsunset the fees.

Chairman Cardillo asked why we are using Ipe wood instead of engineered lumber at the Smith Point Fishing Pier. Commissioner Pavacic responded that Ipe wood is a naturally rot resistant wood. It doesn't require treatment. Jim Barr reported that Ipe wood is a resilient mahogany. It's very strong and sturdy and holds up to the weather very well. The lifespan of the wood exceeds the manufactured products.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee White reported a wonderful job was done at the GATR site maintenance facility.

Scott Hilary reported that the Trustees now receive an emailed agenda from the Legislative Parks Committee. That's a good way of keeping the Trustees informed.

Trustee Hopkins reported that the Governor signed off on legislation regarding the Ronkonkoma Inland Waterway.

Trustee Borden thanked Ann Rothenberg and Parks staff for processing the mileage reimbursement forms for the Trustees.

Trustee Dawson reported he received an email yesterday from Legislator Kennedy that the Coalition for a Better Lake Ronkonkoma is looking for representatives from each township.

Tom Malanga reported the Suffolk County Parks Foundation had a milestone yesterday. The resolution authorizing our agreement with Suffolk County passed the Parks Committee and will be up for a vote at the full Legislature on Tuesday. The County Executive will then sign off on it. Hopefully, we will have an executed contract within the next two months.

Tom Malanga announced that next month is the Parks Foundation Earth Day Awards Dinner. Emails will be sent out next week. The honorees are County Executive Steve Levy, Doug Geed of News 12 and Nancy Manfredonia from the L.I. Greenbelt Trail Conference. Tickets are \$150.00. A silent auction will be held at this event.

Mr. Malanga announced Trustee Corwin will be stepping down as the Trustees' representative on the Parks Foundation Board. Trustee Corwin has been the designee since the Foundation's inception.

Trustee White extended his thanks to Trustee Corwin. Trustee White suggested Trustee McKay as a replacement on the Parks Foundation Board.

**A motion to nominate Trustee McKay to the Parks Foundation Board was made by Trustee White. The Trustees recommended the motion be tabled until next month.**

Deputy Commissioner Bellone announced that the appointment of Bill Sickles (Trustee from the Town of Southampton) and Rich Hollborn (Trustee from the Town of Babylon) was passed by Committee yesterday.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Southaven County Park in Yaphank, New York.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee Corwin. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0**